

BESSIE WETZELL  
U OF ORE  
NEWSPAPER LIB  
EUGENE OR 97403

# Gazette imes

35¢

VOL. 111 NO. 13 6 Pages Wednesday, April 8, 1992 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

## Forest Service completes new building



Delanne Ferguson at her new post as Heppner District Ranger

The Heppner Ranger District now has all of its eggs in one basket. Newly completed district

### New Heppner ranger on the job

Heppner Ranger Delanne Ferguson, 37, is on the job at the new U.S. Forest Service building on Main Street in Heppner.

Ferguson, who has been with the Forest Service for the past 12 years, comes to Heppner from the Alsea District where she was a department head. She has been department head for wildlife, fisheries, recreation and watershed. Prior to service at the Alsea District, she was at the Waldport Ranger District.

Ferguson grew up in San Jose, CA in a farming family. She has a degree in wildlife biology from the University of California at Davis. She has lived in Oregon since 1983. She is married and

offices, located on Main Street in Heppner, finally allow all 45 permanent district employees to be

has a 15 year old step son, Stefan. Stefan and her husband, Michael who is a self employed contractor, will remain at Alsea for the time being.

Ferguson says that the biggest issues facing her in her new position are forest health and access travel management.

Happy with her new placement, Ferguson says, "This is just exactly the kind of place I wanted to be." She says that the new Forest Service offices should provide better communication since the offices were previously housed at three different locations and should provide better customer service because the office is now on the main route to the forest.

under one roof and will accommodate the anticipated influx of temporary help in the summer.

The district has increased its office space to nine thousand square feet, from around six thousand square feet in three offices scattered around Heppner, according to administrative officer Earl Fishburn. Previous offices were located in the Forest Service buildings on the hill, the Coast to Coast building and the Pettyjohn building.

Fishburn says that the new building has a conference room of around one thousand square feet. Previously the district had to rent a building for large meetings or conference, he said.

The district began moving to the new offices on March 25 and finished, for the most part by March 30. An open house is planned for May 6.

## Parents needed to get field ready

First tryouts for majors were held April 4 at the little league field in Heppner with the final tryouts this Saturday, April 11 at 9 a.m. Minor and T-ball tryouts will follow at a later date.

Willow Creek Little League is scheduled to open the season with a triple-header May 2 at the Heppner Little League field. Teams from WCLL include Heppner, Ione, Condon, Fossil and Arlington.

"Lots of work needs to be done to get the field ready for play," said organizer Bob Ployhar. "In-field has to be leveled, weeds pulled, pitchers mound and base areas have to be rototilled and prepared for play. The snack shack will need to be setup and

cleaned before it can be used and advertising sign fence has to be put up." The major source of funds for the Heppner field comes from snack shack and fence ads.

"In past years the major league coaches and a couple of other dedicated people have done most of the preparation and maintenance. Most of those individuals won't be available this year," said Ployhar. Because people move, kids out grow the league and coaches don't have the extra time to do all this work themselves, in addition to the time they donate to coach, volunteers to help get the field

ready are greatly needed.

"If the field is to be playable in 1992, it will be up to the parents to step forward and get the work done," Ployhar said. The field is used by little leaguers age seven through 12 and any parent willing to donate a few hours after work or on a weekend would be greatly appreciated. "Please feel free to work on whatever needs to be done," Ployhar added. "And remember, any litter left at the ball park will be picked up by some volunteer or not picked up at all."

## City budget approved by committee

The Heppner city budget was approved with no changes by the Heppner City Budget Committee at its meeting Thursday, April 2. Budget committee member Rollie Marshall was the sole dissenting vote.

Marshall protested the budget because it does not include funds for the salary for a third city police officer. Officer Gary

Bingham will lose his job beginning July 1, the 1992-93 fiscal year. The city will fund salaries for the positions now held by police chief Doug Rathbun and officer Merle Cowett. \$23,413 was cut for the third police officer.

Also eliminated in the 1992-93 budget was \$25,923 for city pool expenses, \$15,229 for city library expenses and \$5,000 for the

chamber of commerce manager's salary.

The budget will now go back to the city council who may make up to 10 percent in budget changes without requiring budget committee approval.

The budget summary and a notice of hearing will then be published and the budget will be adopted before June 30 at a budget hearing.

## Planning underway for Ione pool use

Planning is now underway to provide swimming lessons for Heppner area youth this summer at the Ione Swimming Pool. The effort is being spearheaded by the city of Heppner and the Morrow County School District as a way to help offset the recently announced closure of the Heppner pool.

City administrator Gary Marks said that an "interest" sign-up sheet is now available at city hall. Marks encouraged all interested parents or youth to contact city hall as soon as possible and register their names on the list. He said that since the time

available at the Ione pool would be limited to two sessions, the sign-up sheet would be used to decide which lessons would be offered. Lessons on the list include Beginner I, Beginner II, Beginner III, Advanced Beginners, Intermediate, Swimmers, and Advanced Swimmers. Marks and parents or youth placing names on the list would need to indicate which lessons they are interested in.

Organizers are projecting a program charge of \$25 per student. Tentative lesson dates have been set for June 16-27 first session, and August 3-14, second session.

Marks said program organizers were hopeful that the Morrow County School Board would approve a proposal to provide bus-ing for Heppner kids to the Ione pool, the cost of which would be included in the \$25 fee. He said that funds left in the current city budget for the swimming pool and lesson fees would be used to reimburse the school district for bus-ing and use of the Ione pool.

The city's swimming pool committee had decided to look in-to providing lessons at the Ione pool after operation of the Heppner pool became clouded with water quality, safety and funding problems.

## Prag joins race for commissioner

Long time Boardman resident John Prag announced this week the kickoff of his campaign for Morrow County commissioner, Position No. 2.

Prag says he has been instrumental over the years bringing investment and jobs to Morrow county and plans to continue that effort as a member of the county commission. "We have the second highest level of unemployment in the state," said Prag, who said his efforts for economic development would provide jobs and the increased valuation needed to fund and spread the cost of essential government services.

Another strong concern for Prag is ensuring Morrow County gets its fair share of services when involved with area government organizations. "Morrow County—especially senior citizens

of the county have been short-changed," said Prag of the services provided for the dollars sent to multi-county agencies. "We've sent more dollars to these agencies than any other county and we get fewer services," he said.

"I will insist on equitable distribution of those services and be sure they are targeted to the specific needs of our Morrow County citizens," Prag said. "We cannot continue to let other counties dictate terms and conditions to residents of Morrow County." Prag said that offices of those organizations should be located in Morrow County.

Prag said his background with business and industry could also help establish a partnership between business and government to help meet county needs.



John Prag

Self-employed as a realtor and in agri-business for the past 30 years, Prag has been instrumental in developing, managing and operating commercial, industrial and farm properties. Prag has joint-ventured with local irrigated farms including Boeing Agri-Industrial. He was managing general partner of a 4,000 acre project. Prag was involved in development of the original French fry plant, a 500 ton per-day potato fresh pack plant and other industries at the Port of Morrow.

Prag is a member of the Morrow County School District Budget Committee and the city of Boardman Planning Commission. He has worked as a volunteer with the East Central Oregon Association of Counties on economic development special projects. He has served as president of the Boardman Chamber of Commerce and in several capacities on local and state organizations dedicated to the real estate profession.

Prag and his wife Lynn live in the Boardman area with one of three children still at home.

"I'm not a professional politician," said Prag of his only attempt for an elected public position, "but I believe I can use my business background to help Morrow County meet the challenges of the mid-1990's."

## Hospitality training workshop slated

The official state hospitality program will put back the 'Oh' in Oregon and your business on Monday, April 27 in Heppner.

The 2½ hour hospitality training program for owners, managers and employees, will be held 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Morrow County Museum.

Register by April 22 with the

Morrow County Tourism committee c/o of Heppner Chamber of Commerce, Box 1232, Heppner, or call 676-5536. Cost is \$5 per person.

The training program will feature customer service tips and the secrets of what to say and how to say it.

## CSEPP exercise training set

The Morrow County Emergency Management has scheduled its second Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Tabletop Exercise for the cities of Irrigon and Boardman to be held in Irrigon at the Morrow County Courthouse Annex April 13 beginning at 9 a.m.

Lynn Morice, training and exercise coordinator of Morrow and

Umatilla counties and Colleen King, former bi-county coordinator will present the Morrow County plans.

An after-action review of the exercise will be conducted following a no-host lunch. A tabletop exercise is for planning, sharing information and testing of the new Morrow County Emergency Operation Plan.

## Eclipse to cause early morning television interruptions

Heppner T.V. Inc announces that the satellite signal on the Family Channel will be shut down between 12:15 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. on April 11 because of a solar eclipse. The Family Channel will lose picture and fade to snow during the 75 minute period. Heppner T.V. apologizes for this late-night viewing problem, but say they are unable to provide an alternative feed. This outage will interrupt "Roots: the

next generation" at that scheduled time.

## Ruth Locust plans meeting

Ruth Locust Chapter No. 32, Order of the Eastern Star will meet Monday, April 13, at 8 p.m. at the Heppner Masonic Hall. All members are encouraged to attend as visitors are expected from neighboring chapters.

The chapter's history will be briefly reviewed and past matrons and past patrons will be honored. After the planned entertainment the members will retire to the dining room for a social hour.

## NEW CAR LOANS

9.5% 48 months

**BANK OF Eastern Oregon** Member F.D.I.C.  
Arlington • Heppner • Ione  
"Your Independent Home Owned Bank"